





THE BRITISH COLONIST.  
Tuesday Morning, August 6, 1867.  
TO ADVERTISERS.  
Transit advertisements must be paid for in advance.  
TO AGENTS.  
Settlements of accounts will be required monthly.  
Completion of the Leech River Ditch and Flume.  
We congratulate our readers upon the completion of the ditch and flume through which water will be carried to work the benches and flats on both banks of Leech River. Upwards of one year has elapsed since the work was commenced. At that time it was confidently believed that the water would be turned on in four months at the furthest; but many discouragements and misadventures befel the contractor, Mr Jeffrey, and what at first appeared a task that the expenditure of a few hundred dollars would place in full operation, has proved a most formidable undertaking, absorbing a sum of money largely in excess of the amount of the contract, and consuming eight months' more of valuable time than the most experienced minor or contractor estimated would be required. Notwithstanding the numerous drawbacks and the certainty that he would lose a large sum of money if he fulfilled his agreement, Mr Jeffrey persevered, and to-day has the proud satisfaction of seeing the work completed. Such indomitable pluck as the contractor has shown deserves reward; and were the exchequer of the Colony in a flourishing state we should certainly recommend that a substantial acknowledgment be extended the worthy gentleman. As the finances stand, however, we fear that Mr Jeffrey will have to rest content with the reflection that he has performed his whole duty, and that he enjoys the confidence and esteem of the Government and his fellow citizens. Now that the ditch and flume are completed it remains to be demonstrated that there are diggings at Leech River that will support a large community of miners. With the great desideratum water supplied, the idle men in the city should flock to the stream, and joining their efforts to those of the miners already there should thoroughly test the diggings during the three months of the mining season that yet remain. If one-half that has been said of the prospects obtained in the mysterious back-branches and the benches of Leech be true, our readers need not be surprised any day should they learn that a rich and extensive gold-lead has been unearthed there.

The Military Reconstruction Bill.  
The Attorney General of the United States having declared this Act to be unconstitutional, an extra session of Congress has been held and the position of that body reaffirmed. Congress has also explained such portions of the Act as were considered indefinite or ambiguous, and has added clauses making its provisions still more stringent than at first. The Act stamps out of existence civil government in the Southern States. The South is placed under military despotism who turn civil officers out of office at the point of the bayonet. Liberty in the South is as great a mockery as it was in the days when one-half its people were held as bondsmen or sold as "chattels." Talk of the "oppressed Irish" or the "down-trodden Poles!" They have little to complain of when we contrast their condition with that of the "sovereign people" of the South. Has it ever occurred to the people of the North—have they ever reflected that they are forging chains that may yet be riveted upon their own limbs? that they are depriving themselves of power as they increase that of the General Government? that every Act they pass depriving the South of its civil rights is laying down a precedent and bringing the day fearfully near for an attack upon their own prerogatives? Yet so it is. The body that can pass a law to strip one section of the Union of political power, can amend the law and apply it to all sections of the country. It is melancholy to reflect that there is less constitutional liberty in "Free" America to-day than in Austria; and what is still more melancholy, is the fact that while the nations of the Old World are becoming more liberal in their ideas and tendencies, the political privileges of the American people are being curtailed and abridged on every side.

Admission of British Columbia into the Confederation of Canada.  
Messrs Editors:—In one of the recent issues of your paper, a letter appeared from one of our Victorian citizens, addressed to the press of Montreal, expressing the gratification that would be felt when the happy day arrived for joining us of Victoria in Political Union with the Confederate States of Canada, and dilating upon the advantages that would result therefrom. The writer of the letter seemed to regard this event as a settled matter; the only thing unsettled in regard to it being the period when this affair would take place, and that there existed universal concurrence amongst us as to the advantage and so on of this alliance. Whether there is anything to warrant this

assumption on the part of the writer, or on the part of any one else who should espouse similar views, is to me a matter of doubt, and upon which I take the liberty of joining issue. I contend that what has taken place in this community, (the more especially when the important considerations involved are taken into account,) in no way justifies the bold assumption that either our admission into the Confederate States of Canada is desirable for us of Victoria, or that we have fully decided upon it. True it is, that some six months since in what I should call red hot haste, some of our Legislators, when this Confederation Bill was pending in the Imperial Parliament, sought a hurried interview with the Governor begging him to send off at once a telegram to the British Government expressive of our desire to be made part and parcel of the Confederation, and that in the same hurried breath these Legislators sent to Victoria, begging for the ratification of a public meeting to endorse their proceedings with instructions for us to hurry up and be quick lest this Confederate bill should have been passed, and British Columbia not included in the list of applicants, the deed done, and we poor creatures left out in the cold; and true it is that this public meeting was held; and there was a decision of an affirmative character recorded, and the results warm from the popular lips immediately transferred, endorsing the action taken by our impulsive and precipitate legislators, and one can easily imagine the complacency and satisfaction felt by those gentlemen on the occasion.

"When little John Turner, sat in a corner eating a Christmas pie, Put in his thumb pulled out a plum And said what a pull you may am I've there was about as much wisdom in gratulation as in these members feeling grand over what they had done; but surely no one, with any pretensions to intelligence would regard these proceedings as a true and faithful index of public sentiment. I could admire the sympathy of those who would. I entirely repudiate such goings on, as altogether unworthy of any part of sound and wholesome legislation. "I appeal," said the Roman citizen, when one of the Cæsars had given a decision. "Appeal!" said the indignant Cæsar, "to whom?" "From Cæsar drunk to Cæsar sober," was the reply. In the name of the colonists of Victoria, and as one anxious for what conduces to their best interests, I appeal from the hasty and precipitate decisions that have been arrived at on this Confederate question—from the impulsive action of our Legislators and the excited atmosphere of a public meeting—to the thinking and reflecting portion of this community. I do not say that the admission of British Columbia may not be productive of all the advantages anticipated, and that it may not be the best possible thing we can do in our present circumstances. But, I contend, in the meantime, we have not sufficient evidence before us to justify this conclusion. That the decision is premature—nay, and what is more, from the peculiar and uncertain character of our present governmental arrangements, the thinking part of our community, and those most deeply interested in the welfare of its future, have not yet thought it necessary to take this matter into serious consideration and pronounce upon it. Those who "decide in haste often repent at leisure." If now we were at once to decide upon going in for Confederation, and afterwards found it unsuited to us, there would be ample ground for the trite and well known saying, that we "were caught on the bustle." Time nor space will not allow of my stating objections to this Confederation taking in our Victoria as part and parcel of it; that must be reserved for a future letter, but in the mean time I desire to bring prominently before the notice of this community, that the basis upon this Union have been published once; there is yet a second and third time of asking and before that takes place let us consider and weigh this matter well before the important and decisive yes, pregnant with great results falls from our trembling lips. As a parting word indicative of future sentiment, let me say I think the charm of this Confederation scheme proceeds rather from the demerits of our present system than from any inherent merits of its own. More anon.

PUBLICOLA.  
Scenes on a French Race Course.  
A Paris letter to an English paper draws a lively picture of the scenes on a French race course:—  
"Some of the best French racing studs, as every one knows, are at Chantilly, and here too, are several of the best breeding establishments for race horses. It is the training place par excellence—the Newmarket of the French turf. It swarms with English trainers, grooms, jockeys and stable boys, for whose benefit an English Protestant church was built a year or two ago, in the hope of seducing these last from their passion for playing at pitch and toss on a Sunday. The country round about is very pretty, and the race course looks not unlike an English common, surrounded as it is by comfortable looking houses and fine trees. The one thing that destroys the illusion is the grand chateau, the tower of which, with its long line of lofty windows, looks on to the race course, and fronts, in fact, the tribune, as the French style the grand stand. Much of the chateau is modern, for the building inhabited by the Great Condé was in large part demolished during the first French revolution.  
On entering the passage we find the jockeys in the scales and betting very animated. The professionals, French and English—the former for the most part Jews, dressed in their accustomed extravagant style; the latter the same unprepossessing looking set that one always sees on race courses, wearing the very lowest crowned hats and the largest of horseshoe pins in their neckties—are mounted on chairs, whence they shout in their respective languages the odds they are prepared to offer. In an adjacent building sweepstakes, the lowest subscription to which is five Napoleons, are being rapidly filled up. The company altogether is from so select that it is a long chance when the Grand Prix de Paris is run for. At Chantilly the ladies of the grand monde have to mix with those of the demi-monde, and the latter seize the opportunity to display their most extravagant and piquant dresses—with little hats trimmed with green vine leaves, the bunches of grapes in solid gold, or with clusters of cherries and strawberries that for size would carry the prize at any horticultural show, or bunches of pink coral beads in many rows on jackets and skirts. The men of decided sporting tastes all affect the low-crowned hat, the tight trousers, the bright-colored neckerchief tied in a slip-knot and secured by some outrageous pin. Many of the most eager among those in the betting ring look mere boys, positively saddened with despatch, with a pinched expression of the lips, an unquiet look in the dull eye, and a languor in the voice as well as in the gait."

By Electric Telegraph  
DELAYED DISPATCHES.  
Eastern States.  
NASHVILLE, July 25.—A dreadful riot occurred at Rogersville, East Tennessee, on Tuesday, Emerson Etheridge, the candidate for Governor, addressed a large crowd, and was interrupted by a prominent Radical. Etheridge replied bitterly, when some one shot at him and the fight became general. Several volleys were fired and two men were instantly killed and several mortally wounded.  
CHICAGO, July 26.—The Republican's special says the Hawaiian Minister has had an interview with Secretary Wells and desired to know why the American war vessel was stationed at Honolulu. The World's special says the Secretary replied, that the mission was a peaceable one.  
GALVESTON, July 25.—The cotton crop of Texas is estimated at from 180,000 to 200,000 bales.  
ALBANY, July 26.—The Constitutional Convention struck out the clause disfranchising persons who have been engaged in the rebellion.  
CHICAGO, July 29.—Daniel Macfarmer, member of Congress and postmaster of Lafayette, Indiana, shot himself dead this morning at his house.  
CHICAGO, July 29.—The Times' special Washington dispatches state that the State Department shows no progress whatever made towards the settlement of the Alabama claims.  
Several South Carolinians say that leading conservatives have proposed a bargain to leading colored citizens to the effect that the Conservatives will help in the election of Congressmen, without regard to color, provided the blacks will give the whites control of the State Government.  
St. Louis, July 24.—Immense deposits of tin have been discovered in Madison county, near Port Knob, being the largest ever known.  
CHICAGO, July 24.—The forthcoming statement of the public debt shows a decrease of two or three millions.  
New York, July 24.—Advices from St. Thomas say it is the general belief that the United States will acquire the Island for a coaling station. A coal mine has been discovered at San Christoval.  
A Herald special says that Grant remarked that if nominated as President, it must be without an exchange of pledges.  
Santa Anna is still a prisoner.  
ALBANY, July 24.—The Convention has defeated the proposition to give the right of suffrage to all male citizens over eighteen years of age. Also, a proposition which requires ability to read and write, and also one looking to female suffrage.  
New York, July 24.—At a Democratic meeting at Baltimore, a speaker appealed to Heaven to assist in the doctrine of State rights. He said the sovereignty of Maryland must be sustained even at the point of the bayonet.  
New York, July 31.—The Tribune's special says: Seward and Sir Frederick Bruce have been trying to agree upon a plan for the session of the British American possessions adjacent to Walrus.  
CHICAGO, Aug 2.—A requiem mass, for the repose of the soul of Maximilian, was celebrated at Church of St. John.  
W. R. Roberts, President of the Fenian Brotherhood, is expected from Europe shortly. It is said he has secured the co-operation of certain European nations in a struggle for Irish independence.  
Europe.  
LONDON, August 2.—A despatch from Athens says the Greeks have defeated the Turks in Crete in several recent engagements.  
Pesth, August 2.—Louis Kossuth is chosen to represent the city of Waitzen in the Hungarian Diet without a dissenting voice.  
PARIS, July 28.—The Monteur positively denies the statement that Napoleon has sent a note to the King of Prussia urging him to surrender to the Danish Government the district north of Schleswig.  
Notwithstanding the official denial mentioned above, Berlin semi-official journals continue to urge the King of Prussia to reject the intrusion of the French Emperor in the affairs of Germany.  
The Emperor of Russia has issued a decree constituting the territory recently conquered by Russia in Central Africa into a government.  
CHERRIBOURG, July 28.—The Empress Eugénie yesterday visited the U. S. steamer Colorado, and was received with all the honors due her exalted rank.  
Canada.  
OTTAWA, C.W., July 29.—It is understood that Earl Carnarvon, and not the Duke of Buckingham, will succeed the Governor General.  
THE FUNERAL OF ARTEMUS WARD took place at Watford, Me., on the 10th June. The body was not embalmed, though efforts had been made to prevent decomposition. The coffin, of which there were four, were enclosed in a large box or case marked, "From Milwood & Co., London—Sculpture—Handle with care." Upon removing the cover an oak coffin was seen, with a covering of black broadcloth, thickly studded with large headed black nails, in double rows, giving the appearance of paneling in the arrangement. Upon the sides of the coffin were eight black handles; Upon the top of the coffin was a large brass plate, 12 by 15 inches, reading "Charles F. Brown, aged 33 years, known to the world as Artemus Ward," there were also upon the lid two wreaths with the initials "R. I. P." Rest in Peace, and a cluster of decayed flowers. Removing the lid a leather coffin was found carefully soldered and hermetically sealed; this being cut away the zinc coffin followed, and then the "shell" or inner coffin. Upon removing the lid of this the remains were exposed to view, the features natural but discolored, and it was too plain that decomposition had commenced its work. It was not deemed expedient to expose the remains to the view of the friends and relatives; disinfectives were used to neutralize the gases evolved and the coffin was immediately closed.  
Among the pensions just granted by the British Government is one to Rev. Miles Joseph Berkeley of £100 a year on account of his botanical services to practical horticulture and agriculture; and one to George Cruikshank of £95 a year on account of his great merit as an artist.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE OFFICER.—It was one of the accusations against Lieut. Brand before the Jamaica commission that he had said prior to Gordon's trial that nothing would give him greater pleasure than the hanging of this d-d son of a b— Brand denied it and indicated Mr Astor as a person who could contradict it. But curious to say, the London correspondent of the Boston Advertiser tells a story of a speech of Lord Chief Justice Cockburn of a similar kind. Probably it is as open to contradiction as the one about Mr Brand. We give it for what it is worth: "Chief Justice Cockburn in private society speaks with even more directness of the infamies committed in Jamaica than he did when in court. At a dinner party the other day, while he was giving expression to his sentiments, an officer of the army observed in a 'haw-haw' manner—'Do you think so? You should have seen our fellows in India with the Sepoys,' and the gallant gentleman proceeded to narrate some peculiarly disgusting instances of the blowing of men from the guns, &c. When he had finished, the Judge exclaimed, 'The very kindling as he was in court. At a dinner party the other day, while he was giving expression to his sentiments, an officer of the army observed in a 'haw-haw' manner—'Do you think so? You should have seen our fellows in India with the Sepoys,' and the gallant gentleman proceeded to narrate some peculiarly disgusting instances of the blowing of men from the guns, &c. When he had finished, the Judge exclaimed, 'The very kindling as he was in court. At a dinner party the other day, while he was giving expression to his sentiments, an officer of the army observed in a 'haw-haw' manner—'Do you think so? 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